

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-04 MC-02 DODE-00 ACDA-07
SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 /063 W
----- 112943 /43

P R 131818Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8711
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 20150

GENEVA FOR WISNER

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, BC, UK, US
SUBJECT: BOTSWANA PURCHASE OF AR-18 RIFLES

REFERENCE: STATE 294122

1. EBERT OF FCO CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA DEPARTMENT
GAVE EMBASSY OFFICER HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT STERLING
ARMAMENT CO. IS PRESENTLY AWAITING A SECOND USG EXPORT
LICENSE TO COVER 70,000 ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION FOR THE
AR-18 RIFLES. STERLING NEVERTHELESS EXPECTS TO SHIP
HALF THE ORDER "BEFORE CHRISTMAS."

2. EBERT SAID HMG, CONTRARY TO PARAGRAPH TWO IN REFTEL,
STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE BOTSWANA REQUEST. IN FACT, HE
SAID, THE CROWN AGENTS HAVE BEEN HELPFUL IN ARRANGING
THE NECESSARY FOREIGN EXCHANGE SO THAT THE PURCHASE CAN
GO FORWARD.

3. EMBASSY OFFICER SUGGESTED THAT SOMETHING MAY HAVE
FALLEN BETWEEN THE STOOLS INASMUCH AS REFTEL DID NOT
REFER TO AN OUTSTANDING REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL EXPORT
LICENSE. MOREOVER, IT WOULD BE ILLOGICAL TO GRANT A
LICENSE FOR THE WEAPONS BUT NOT FOR THE AMMUNITION. SO
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FAR AS THE FCO IS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, ACTION RESTS WITH

THE USG BEFORE STERLING CAN COMPLETE THE ORDER. WE
WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION.

ARMSTRONG

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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